

The Gilded Age 1877-1896

I. Reasons for Rapid Growth After the Civil War

A. Growth in Population

Post War Baby Boom

Immigration

Tripled (32 million in 1860- 92 million in 1910)

Increased Demand for product and jobs

Westward Expansion

Increased need for raw materials and natural resources

Rapid Expansion of Railroads

B. Industrial expansion after the war

Technology increased providing new machines

Examples

Electric iron, telephone, phonograph, zipper, celluloid (type of plastic), sewing machine, dynamite, paper clip, pasteurization, light bulb, cash register, camera, Coca-Cola, fountain pen, escalator

C. Government was seen as sympathetic to the people

High import tariff reduced foreign competition

Increased immigration provided lots of cheap labor

D. Energy Technology Changed

Decreased Reliance on Water as a power source

Increased reliance on oil and electricity as power sources

II. Captains of Industry

1. men whose ideas, energy, and money dominated this time period

whose efforts helped U.S. become prosperous and productive

2. Some were considered Robber Barons

Shoved greed and aggression into business

A. Cornelius Vanderbilt --Shipping Magnate

1. Controlled shipping first by water then by railroad
2. Owned railroad from NY to Chicago

B. Andrew Carnegie--Steel Giant

1. Rags to Riches began work in a textile mill
2. Quickly rose to be superintendent of PA Railroad
3. Vertical Integration
Controlled all parts of steel (or whatever) production from the ground up
4. Financial Genius
5. Believed Darwinism and applied it to his holdings
6. Philanthropist (someone who gives charitably)

C. John D. Rockefeller

1. America's first billionaire
2. Standard Oil Company
Oil refining to make petroleum
Controlled 95% of refining
Horizontal Integrations
Consolidations of ALL of one segment in industry
3. Organized assets into Trusts
 - A. Board of trustees empowered to make decisions and control whole group companies
 - B. Made it difficult for small businesses and farmers to succeed

C. Led to Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890

D. John Pierpont Morgan

1. Leading investment banker
2. Bought out Carnegie Steel making it U.S. Steel Corp

E. James Buchanan Duke

1. After war, south went back to Agriculture but some wanted to make the "new south" into industrial giant to rival north

2. Took Tobacco and textiles to new heights
 - A. 400 cotton mills in south by 1900
 - B. newer variety of tobacco onto market
 - C. Owned the American Tobacco Co.
 - D. Helped with the devolvement of hydroelectric power

III. Innovations of the Era

- A. Better diet
 1. Refrigerated train cars allowed fruits and vegetables from Midwest to be shipped around
 2. Ice boxes in homes
 3. Improvement of canning methods including tin cans make it easier to mass produce food items
- B. Clothing
 1. Ready made Clothing
 - A. Less material needed
 - B. Lessened class distinctions because material cheaper
 - C. Invention of Sewing Machine
- C. Communications
 1. Increased correspondence
 2. Better Record Keeping
 3. Invention of typewriter
 4. More use of Shorthand
 5. Cheaper ways to make paper
 - A. for printing on
 - B. for writing
 6. More schooling and reading
- D. The telephone
 1. Alexander Graham Bell came to America to teach deaf students
 2. Spent 3 years working on phone
 3. March 10, 1876 first telephone call
 4. American Telephone and Telegraph Co. 1885
- E. The Light bulb
 1. Thomas Alva Edison
 2. Made first research lab at Menlo Park, NJ
 3. Made over 1000 inventions in lifetime
 - A. light bulb and indoor lighting

IV. 4 Issues that dominated Politics

A. Spoils System

1. A new president replaced the old presidents appointed officeholders with his own supporters
2. U.S. Grant's administration was rife with spoils and when Rutherford Hayes took office he set out to reform the government
3. Hayes attacked the "machines"* that ruled politics
* groups trying to control votes and voters

B. Stalwarts vs. Half-breeds

1. Stalwarts (conservative Republicans)
-- favored high tariffs and spoils system
2. Half-breeds (moderate Republicans)
--favored reform
3. Came to head in next election
 - A. Stalwart James Garfield for President
 - B. Half-breed Chester A. Arthur for Vice President
 - C. Charles Guiteau assassinated Garfield as a result of the spoils system

C. Civil Service Reform

1. President Arthur's presidency best known for reform
2. Pendleton Act est. Civil Service Commission thus eliminating spoils system
--3 civil service commissioners were responsible for seeing offices were filled by men who scored well on civil service exam

D. Mongrel tariff

1. Due to general prosperity and government surplus tariff's should be reduced by 25%
2. Congress wanted to protect trade and the "interests of the constituents" but added lots of stuff to the text
3. Did not reform tariffs
4. Did cause the political parties to take stances
Republicans :favored high tariffs
Democrats: favored low tariffs

V. 1884 Election

- A. Republican choice was James Blaine instead of incumbent Arthur
- B. Democrats choice was Grover Cleveland

- C. Ugly election lots of mud slinging
- D. Cleveland won
- E. Cleveland challenged the “trusts” by federally regulating commerce
 - 1. Interstate Commerce Act
 - A. make railroad rates reasonable
 - B. railroad rates must be published
 - C. creation of Interstate Commerce Commission

VI. 1888 Election

- A. Won by Benjamin Harrison
- B. Grover Cleveland vowed he would be back
- C. Cleveland won more popular votes but Harrison won more electoral college
- D. Harrison was a weak president
 - 1. Congress was big on spending
 - 2. First time annual budget reached a million
- E. Sherman Anti-Trust Act
 - 1. Made monopolies illegal
 - 2. Difficult to enforce
 - 3. Very ineffective
- D. Raising the tariff’s again
 - 1. Republicans passed law favoring high tariffs on imported goods
 - 2. 6 New states admitted to union making it easier to raise it
 - A. North Dakota
 - B. South Dakota
 - C. Montana
 - D. Washington
 - E. Wyoming
 - F. Idaho
 - 3. This decreased trade and helped bring on the Panic of 1893.
 - 4. Grover Cleveland Re-elected

VII. Labor Unions and the Pullman Strike

- A. Knights of Labor
 - 1. Terrence Powell
 - 2. Gathered skilled and unskilled workers
 - 3. 8 hour workday, stricter child labor laws, equal pay/equal work for men and women
- B. American Federation of Labor
 - 1. Mainly for the skilled worker

2. Samuel Gompers
3. Higher wages, safer conditions, elimination of child labor

C. Haymarket Riot

1. Workers striked
2. Police tried to disperse crowd of protesters and someone threw a bomb
3. 1866 Chicago

D. Violence at Carnegie Steel

1. wage cut threatened largely due to new machinery making jobs easier
2. locked out workers

E. Pullman Strike

1. Eugene Debs
2. Wage reduction but did not reduce cost of living expenses (rent and cost of goods both in company)
3. This strike stopped mail service
4. Government stepped in and said it could not stop mail service and were told to stop strike

VIII. Changes in society

A. From Rural to Urban

1. 1890 census shows big move to cities (both big and small)
2. Why?
 - jobs, services and attractions of city
3. Downside
 - High crime
 - prostitution
 - disease
 - much higher infant mortality rate

B. Immigration

1. Shift from Western Europe to Southern and Eastern European immigrants

2. Many had no skills so stayed in cities
3. Grouped with like speaking people
4. Worked cheaply in sweatshops
5. Lived in tenements

6. Opposition to Immigrations

- A. fear that they were taking jobs from Americans
 - B. Disease
 - C. lower standard of living
 - D. increased crime
 - E. religious fears
 - large influx of Catholics, Jews, Eastern Orthodox
 - F. Racial/Ethnic Prejudice
 - G. undermine the cultural unity of America
 - H. These fears caused increase in quota's and restrictions on immigration
 - Ellis Island
7. Immigrants became backbone of American prosperity
- melting pot

C. Darwinism

1. Charles Darwin publishes Origin of Species about natural selection and evolution
2. Social Darwinism is application of evolutionary theory into social and business situations
3. Reform Darwinism is human progress best achieved through cooperation
4. Incorporated into mainstream religion
 - used to explain origin of scripture
 - man inherently good instead of sinful

D. Literature and the Arts

1. Realism instead of Romance
2. Rags to Riches stories
3. Painters used everyday scenes
 - naturalism

E. Materialism

1. Increased desire for worldly goods
2. Increased leisure time
 - A. new amusements
3. Some ministers said it was the “Christian duty to be prosperous”

IX. Spreading the Word

Christians challenged Darwinism and Materialism with scripture

D. L. Moody

1. Urban evangelist
2. Started out with desire for worldly goods but during revival turned his emphasis to reaching world for Christ
3. Became preacher called “Yankee evangelist” by those in Great Britain
4. Spoke plainly from the heart to reach the people
 - used jokes and real life illustrations